

JESUS BEFORE THE PEOPLE SUBMITTING TO THE FATHER'S WILL (JOHN 12:20-36)

OPEN: The streets were crowded; the Passover Festival was just days away.

- ✓ The hustle and bustle of the holidays was upon them.
- ✓ What you are about to hear is the last public teaching of Jesus (you have heard of the Last Supper...this is the last sermon or public teaching before the cross).

1) **SEARCHING** (JOHN 12:20-22). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Who are these Greeks? Probably God fearing Gentiles who had turned from their pagan idols to worship the One true God.
 - ✓ They have come to attend the Festival. As Gentiles, they would only be allowed to enter the outer court of the Temple.

PICTURE – HEROD'S TEMPLE

Side Note: The entire Temple compound was considered holy, but it became increasingly more holy as one entered farther in from east to west.

King Herod had enclosed the outer court with colonnades and it was referred to as the Court of the Gentiles because the Gentiles (non-Jews) were permitted to enter the Temple area. They could walk around it but were forbidden to go further than the outer court. They were excluded from entering into any of the inner courts and warning, and warning signs in Greek and Latin were placed that gave warning that the penalty for such trespass was death.

The Romans permitted the Jewish authorities to carry out the death penalty of his offense, even if the offender were a Roman citizen.

It was for this alleged crime that Paul was attacked and nearly beaten to death by an angry crowd during his last visit to Jerusalem (**Acts 17:27-32**).

- Why do they go to Philip? He was the only disciple with a Gentile name (his name was made popular by King Philip, Father of Alexander the Great).
 - ✓ John tells us of Philip's home town...it may be these Greeks were from the same place...Bethsaida of Galilee.
 - ✓ Some have suggested, Philip spoke Greek.
 - ✓ John Phillips remarks: "the Lord's life on earth began with a visit of Gentiles from the east (wise men) and drew to a close with a visit of Gentiles from the west).

- What is their request? They want to arrange a meeting with Jesus...**vs. 21 NKJV...Sir, we wish to see Jesus.**
 - ✓ They want to meet Jesus while the religious leaders want to kill Jesus.
 - Those who are outside the Jewish race want to know more about Jesus; while those inside the bloodline have grown "bored" with Him...want to get rid of Him.
 - ✓ The verb tense used...**they kept on asking him...**
 - ✓ Perhaps they wanted to know if the Gentile race had any place in the Messianic Kingdom.
 - ✓ Philip doesn't quite know what to do with this "eager group" so he seeks out his friend Andrew.
 - Andrew is a quiet, reserved disciple...not one for the spotlight, he works best behind the scene.
 - The three times Andrew appears in John (John 1:41, John 6:8-9, and here John 12:22) he is bringing someone to Jesus.

- Questions to ponder:
 - ✓ If someone wanted to know Jesus, would they come to you?

- ✓ Could you lead them to Jesus? We can't save people but we ought to be able to show them the way.
- ✓ Have you a friend like Philip (Andrew might be of help)? Who do you enjoy serving the Lord with...two are better than one.

2) **SERVING** (JESUS PROVIDES SOME GREAT INSIGHT). (JOHN 12:23-29)
 (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- The hour had finally arrived... "the time has come."
 - ✓ The clock had been ticking ever since the Garden of Eden. **Genesis 3:15 - From the seed of the woman will come your deliverer.**
 - Luke hints of this event...Simeon in the Temple holds baby Jesus...he thanks God that salvation has arrived...says to Mary, the baby's mother: **Luke 2:34b-35 (NLT)**...**"This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."**
 - ✓ The cross was just days ahead...Jesus knew what had to be done, it was for this very purpose He had come.
- Learn the lesson of the seed. (Illustration: seed pack)
 - ✓ A seed kept safely in its paper packaging can produce nothing...but it is safe, warm and dry.
 - ✓ Unless it is buried, entombed in the earth, it will produce nothing.
 - ✓ The kernel of wheat is buried under the soil (dies) the sun shines, water droplets fall...first a sprout, then a twig and soon a stalk with much wheat to harvest.

(PICTURE OF SEED)

- ✓ Jesus' death and resurrection will bring about the salvation of many souls.

- We must die to self...now that we belong to Christ, we are to put aside our selfish ways.
 - ✓ No longer living a “me-centered life” but a “Christ centered life.”
 - ✓ All that I have belongs to God (my time, finances, talents) these are tools in the gardener’s hands.
 - ✓ The culture says pursue your dreams, fulfill your goals, grab a hold of all that you can before you die...
 - ✓ The scriptures teach...give your life away, serve God, help others and you will live a satisfied life and be rewarded in eternity.

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) - ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise.¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

- ✓ Chuck Swindoll – “to keep you must give, to be great we must serve, to live we must die and not until we die will we realize the real joy of giving or the emptiness of keeping.”
- Unless we die to self we will not bear fruit...fruit of the Spirit, fruit of souls (evangelizing) and the fruit of discipleship...
 - ✓ George Mueller (lived in England, ran an orphanage) – “There was a day when I died – died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world and its approval; died to the approval or blame of my friends; and since then, I have strived only to show myself approved unto God.”
- We must submit to God (**vs. 27**) and His plans.
 - ✓ We are called to give the controls over to God and do what He has required of us.
 - ✓ Jesus admits...some things we go through are hard...**my soul is deeply troubled** (agitated, bothered).

- He knew the agony in the garden, the mocking trials to come, the physical abuse, the whipping, crown of thorns, the heavy crossbeam, the nails...
- But I think what troubled Him the most was the fact that God's wrath was about to be poured out on Him as He bore the sins of mankind and the Father would have to turn away.
- ✓ How should we approach the difficult things of life?
 - Not how can I get out of this but how can I glorify God in this?
 - Our life purpose: to bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT) - So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- God honors those who honor Him...do what is right especially when it's hard.
- You might think Jesus needed a little encouragement so God the Father spoke (vs. 28) but it wasn't for Jesus' benefit but ours.
 - ✓ This is the third-time God has spoken audibly.
 - 1st time at His baptism – the commencement of His ministry.
 - 2nd time on the Mt. of Transfiguration – the climax of His ministry.
 - 3rd time here at the crisis of His ministry.
 - The 1st time when He went down into the waters of Jordan.
 - The 2nd time He came down the mountain.
 - The 3rd time when He prepared to go down in death.

3) **SALVATION.** (JOHN 12:30-36) *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Since the fall of man, Satan has been fighting desperately to drag the souls of men (God's prize creation) down with him.
 - ✓ He set in motion the events that would put an end to the Son of Man.
 - ✓ When Jesus was born he tried to take Jesus out...by having the baby boys in Bethlehem massacred.
 - ✓ Now...he planned to kill Him and use a Roman cross to do it...the very things that would seal his own doom.

Colossians 2:13b-15 (NLT) - ...God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

- ✓ Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness (**Numbers 21**) so Christ would be lifted up from the earth on a cross.
- The cross is the great divide...
 - ✓ On one side of the cross...a blaspheming thief dies and goes into a Christless eternity.
 - ✓ On the other side...a repenting thief asks for forgiveness and is offered a place in paradise.

? On which side of the cross are you? It matters not how good or bad you have been...repent and receive Christ as your Savior.

- ✓ Respond while you have light before the darkness comes.
- ✓ No man can blame God if they go to hell...Jesus offers Himself as your substitute.

CLOSE:

Searching...help those who search? Get them to Jesus.

Serving...die to selfishness and submit (surrender) to the Savior (your will, His glory)!

Salvation...you are not good enough, none of us are...look and live!

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Message Notes
November 19, 2017**